

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 07-0667V

Filed: August 29, 2008

Not to be Published

JOSETTE RICHARD

Petitioner(s),

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Respondent.

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Dismissal; Failure to Follow Court
Orders; Failure to Submit Supporting
Medical Records or Expert Opinion
Failure to Prosecute

DECISION¹

The above-named petitioner filed a Short-Form Autism Petition For Vaccine Compensation on September 12, 2007. Thereafter, petitioner failed to file medical records and a “Statement Regarding Onset” as ordered by the undersigned on September 27, 2007, December 26, 2007, and March 10, 2008. See Richard v. Sec’y of HHS, No. 07-0667V, Order of the Chief Special Master (Fed. Cl. Spec. Mstr. September 27, 2007) (hereinafter Order filed September 27, 2007); See Richard v. Sec’y of HHS, No. 07-0667V, Order of the Chief Special Master (Fed. Cl. Spec. Mstr. December 26, 2007) (hereinafter Order filed December 26, 2007); Richard v. Sec’y of HHS, No. 07-0667V, Order of the Chief Special Master (Fed. Cl. Spec. Mstr. March 10, 2008) (hereinafter Order filed March 10, 2008).

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party (1) that is trade secret or commercial or financial information and is privileged or confidential, or (2) that are medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, “the entire” decision will be available to the public. Id.

The undersigned repeatedly warned petitioner that noncompliance with court Orders would not be tolerated and could lead to dismissal of petitioner's claim. See Order filed December 26, 2007; Order filed March 10, 2008. Further, the undersigned warned petitioner in the court's March 10, 2008 Order, that "failure to follow court Orders, as well as failure to file medical records, or an expert medical opinion shall result in dismissal of petitioner's claim." Order filed March 10, 2008 citing Tsekouras v. Sec'y of HHS, 26 Cl. Ct. 439 (1992), 991 F.2d 810 (Fed. Cir. 1993) aff'd per curiam without opin.; Sapharas v. Sec'y of HHS, 35 Fed. Cl. 503 (1996).

Petitioner has failed or the opinion of an expert to support petitioner's claim in the instant case.² Additionally, petitioner has failed to respond to any of the court's Orders in any manner in the instant case. Accordingly, pursuant to Vaccine Rule 21(b), the undersigned dismisses petitioner's claim for failure to prosecute or comply with the Vaccine Rules, or the court's Orders. The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.

IT IS SO ORDERED. _____

Gary J. Golkiewicz
Chief Special Master

² The Vaccine Act provides that a special master cannot find that a petitioner has proven her case by a preponderance of the evidence based upon "the claims of a petitioner alone, unsubstantiated by medical records or medical opinion." 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-13 (a). Petitioner's failure to file medical records has prevented the undersigned from addressing any aspect of the merits of petitioner's claim.